

Message Text

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PAGE 01 CANBER 04690 060537Z

ACTION EA-09

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-01 INR-07

L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15

USIA-06 AS-01 /056 W

-----064982 060539Z /17

R 060510Z JUL 77

FM AMEMBASSY CANBERRA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 789

INFO AMCONSUL MELBOURNE

AMCONSUL SYDNEY

AMEMBASSY WELLINGTON

AMEMBASSY BANGKOK

AMCONSUL BRISBANE

AMCONSUL PERTH

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BANGKOK FOR CONLON

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PINT, US, AS

SUBJECT: LEFT-WING ATTACK ON EMBASSY'S POLITICAL COUNSELOR
DISRUPTS ALP NATIONAL CONFERENCE

1. ALP LEFT-WINGER BILL HARTLEY, AN INVETERATE ANTI-AMERICAN, DISRUPTED THE ALP'S NATIONAL CONFERENCE IN PERTH ON JULY 5 WHEN HE MOVED A MOTION TO BAR THE EMBASSY'S POLCOUNS W.D. BOGGS FROM OBSERVING THE CONFERENCE ON THE GROUNDS THAT HE WAS THE CIA STATION CHIEF IN AUSTRALIA. HARTLEY'S MOTION WAS UNANIMOUSLY REJECTED BY THE CONFERENCE AND THE CONFERENCE TOOK THE UNUSUAL STEP OF CENSURING HARTLEY FOR MOVING IT. THE PREVAILING MOOD OF THE CONFERENCE WAS SUMMED UP BY MHR MICK YOUNG, WHO SAID "THIS LUNACY WILL HAVE TO ATTRACT THE ATTENTION OF ALL THE PEOPLE OUTSIDE WHO SAY WE ARE CRAZY."

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WM THE HARTLEY ACCUSATION, THE NATIONAL CONFERENCE'S DECISION TO CENSURE HIM AND THE ENSUING DEBATE MADE THE FRONT PAGES OF ALMOST EVERY MAJOR AUSTRALIAN NEWSPAPER, ALONG WITH PHOTOGRAPHS OF MR. BOGGS.

3. LABOR PARTY PROFESSIONALS WERE PARTICULARLY DISTURBED

BECAUSE HARTLEY'S CHARGES RECEIVED MERE PUBLICITY THAN
OPPOSITION LEADER GOUGH WHITLAM'S MAJOR POLICY SPEECH.

4. MR. BOGGS WAS TOLD PRIVATELY BY MANY MEMBERS OF THE
PARTY THAT THE ACCUSATION WAS COMPLETE NONSENSE, AND
SEVERAL SENIOR ALP MEMBERS, MOST NOTABLY JOHN DUCKER,
PRESIDENT OF NEW SOUTH WALES BRANCH OF THE PARTY, AND ALP
FEDERAL PRESIDENT BOB HAWKE, INSISTED ON MEETING SOCIALLY
WITH BOGGS TO DEMONSTRATE TO THE PRESS AND TO THE PUBLIC
AT LARGE THAT THEY FELT THE HARTLEY ALLEGATION WAS
NONSENSE.

5. COMMENT: HARTLEY'S CHARGES FORCED THE LABOR PARTY TO
DEMONSTRATE PUBLICLY THAT LEFT-WING ACCUSATIONS OF CIA
ACTIVITY IN AUSTRALIA ARE POLITICALLY DAMAGING TO IT.
WE EXPECT THAT THIS ONE-DAY SENSATION WILL BE OFF THE
FRONT PAGES OF THE NATIONAL PRESS BY TOMORROW. ALSTON

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Message Attributes

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Copy: SINGLE
Sent Date: 06-Jul-1977 12:00:00 am
Decaption Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
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